

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

Version of Amendments with Markings to Show Changes Made.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as indicated below, without prejudice:

Amend A
1. (Once amended) A prosthetic component implantable into a hollow interior portion of a first bone, said prosthetic component comprising:

elongate stem means having a distal section and a proximal section, said stem means further including a long axis and a slot extending along said long axis; and support plate means having first and second opposing sides, said first side being disposed on the proximal section of the stem means and including at least one flared plate surface having a medial section, and flaring outwardly from said proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an under surface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees.

Amend A2
10. (Once amended) A prosthetic component for implantation into a first bone for transferring mechanical stress between the first bone and a second bone, the first bone having a load-bearing

portion and a hollow interior portion, said prosthetic component comprising:

Q2
elongated stem means having a long axis and a slot extending along said long axis, and further including opposing proximal and distal sections; and

support plate means including an at least partially non-planar first side attached to the proximal section of the stem means and an opposing second side, said first side extending outward from said proximal section such that said first side defines at least one flared plate section having a medial section and flaring outwardly from said proximal section in a distal to proximal direction such that an undersurface of a terminal portion of a lip of said medial section forms an angle with the long axis of the stem means which is greater than ninety degrees, said second side being configured to support a means for engaging with the second bone member to thereby enable load transfer between the first bone and said second bone member.

— *Final*
— Q3
21. (Once amended) A method for replacing a joint in a patient comprising the steps of:

(a) selecting a prosthetic component including a proximal section and a flared plate section flaring outward from said